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COCOM Document 3711.45/1

COORDINATING COMMITTEERECORD OF DISCUSSIONONITEM 1145 - CONTAINERS FOR STORAGE OR TRANSPORTATION OF  
LIQUEFIED GASES23rd and 30th November, 1959.

Present: Belgium(Luxembourg), France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States.

References: COCOM Docs. Nos. 3700.2 and 5, COCOM Doc. No. 3711.00/1 and W.P. 1145/1.

1. The COMMITTEE based its discussion on the proposals submitted by the United States and German Delegations.

United States proposal

2. The UNITED STATES Delegation proposed that the cut-off figure of 500 gallons (1,893 litres) be changed to 250 gallons (946 litres) and that fluorine be added to the gases listed in this item.

3. No objections were raised to the addition of fluorine, but several delegations were unable to agree to the change in cut-off. The United States Delegation expressed a willingness to modify their proposal so as to limit the cut-off change to liquefied fluorine only. To this end, they suggested that the item should retain its present cut-off, that fluorine should be added to the gases listed therein, and that a new sub-item should be added to cover containers of from 250 gallons up to 500 gallons designed for the storage and/or transportation of liquid fluorine. The item thus redefined would read:

"Containers, jacketed only, for the storage or transportation of liquefied gases, including mobile units as follows:  
 (a) of 500 gallons capacity or over, designed for liquid nitrogen, oxygen, hydrogen, ozone, helium, argon and fluorine  
 (b) of 250 gallons up to 500 gallons designed for the handling of liquid fluorine."

4. Delegations welcomed this modification and undertook to refer it to their Governments.

German proposal

5. The GERMAN Delegation proposed that the words "vacuum insulated" be inserted before the word "containers" at the beginning of the definition.

6. All Delegations, except the UNITED STATES Delegation, were prepared to accept the German proposal.

7. The GERMAN Delegation explained that their proposal aimed at excluding containers which were not capable of storing liquefied gases over a long period. They were ready to study any other proposal which would achieve this

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result. The UNITED STATES Delegation pointed out that certain non-vacuum types were superior in so far as the storage of liquid gases was concerned. They indicated that they were pursuing the question of whether it would be possible to establish a cut-off based on the temperature loss factor over a given time period with a view to separating the more important from the less important types of such equipment, and also to determine if other equipment specifications could be related to such a loss factor.

8. The UNITED KINGDOM Delegation welcomed this tentative United States suggestion. They themselves were anxious to exclude the vast amount of civilian-type equipment used to transport gases.

9. The FRENCH Delegation, although they favoured a simple formula not likely to give difficulty to the customs officials who applied the control system, were also ready to study a cut-off based on the temperature loss factor over a given time period.

10. On the 30th November, the BELGIAN Delegation indicated that they were in favour of the German proposal.

11. CONCLUSION : The COMMITTEE noted that agreement had not been reached on Item 1145, and agreed to resume study of it during the second round of discussion.

SPG.